

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A printing control method, comprising:
 - 5 a data management step of storing printing data received from a client device, in storage means in association with management information, and of transmitting said management information to said client device when a printing request received from the client device is a printing request of the type involving the transmission and reception of printing data,;
 - 10 a step of referencing said storage means and of reading out printing data associated with management information received from said client device when said printing request is of the type involving the transmission and reception of management information associated with the printing data in the data management step,; and,
 - 15 a step of executing printing, based on said received printing data or on said read-out printing data.
2. The printing control method according to Claim 1, wherein said data management step, when judging it necessary to delete printing data from said storage means, selects and deletes printing data based on priority information relating to data deletion.
- 20 3. The printing control method according to Claim 2, wherein said data management step references rule storage means which stores at least one setting rule for said priority information, and sets said priority information.
4. The printing control method according to Claim 3, further comprising a step of registering setting rules in said rule storage means based on input from a user.
- 25 5. The printing control method according to Claim 3 or Claim 4, wherein said setting rules are composed based on at least one among the time of storage, time of use, frequency of use, and data size of the printing data.
6. A printing system, comprising:
 - 30 data management means for storing printing data received from a client device in storage means in association with management information, and for

transmitting management information to said client device when a printing request received from the client device is a printing request of the type involving the transmission and reception of printing data,;

means for referencing said storage means and for reading out printing data associated with management information received from said client device when said printing request is of the type involving the transmission and reception of management information associated with the printing data by the data management means; and,

means for executing printing, based on said received printing data or on said read-out printing data.

7. A printing system, comprising at least one client device and a printing device configured to enable communication with said client device, wherein said client device can output two types of printing requests, consisting of a first type involving the transmission and reception of printing data and a second type involving the transmission and reception of management information associated with printing data by the printing device, and wherein

said printing device, upon receiving the first type of printing request from a client device, stores printing data received from said client device in association with management information in storage means, transmits said management information to said client device, and executes printing based on said printing data; whereas,

upon receiving the second type of printing request from a client device, references said storage means, reads out printing data associated with management information received from said client device, and executes printing based on said read-out printing data.